

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,250

2

00:00:11,250 --> 00:00:14,280

There's a time limit, I think.

3

00:00:14,280 --> 00:00:16,400

Let's talk about D-Day again.

4

00:00:16,400 --> 00:00:19,200

Gladly.

5

00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:22,500

We knew already, more or less,
that something was in the air

6

00:00:22,500 --> 00:00:26,910

that Germany finally did lose.

7

00:00:26,910 --> 00:00:32,070

I have to add that, from the
day Hitler conquered France,

8

00:00:32,070 --> 00:00:35,550

I stopped reading the newspapers
and listening to the news.

9

00:00:35,550 --> 00:00:37,530

I didn't want to know
anything anymore.

10

00:00:37,530 --> 00:00:39,570

It was just so
upsetting that I just

11

00:00:39,570 --> 00:00:42,000

felt, well, whatever
will happen, will happen.

12

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:43,500

And I don't bother anymore--

13
00:00:43,500 --> 00:00:45,600
I mean, not bother,
but I mean I just

14
00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:47,430
didn't want to read it anymore.

15
00:00:47,430 --> 00:00:50,970
But then, little by
little, towards the end

16
00:00:50,970 --> 00:00:55,920
of 1944 beginning of
'45, things seemed

17
00:00:55,920 --> 00:00:59,550
to fall into place
more and more.

18
00:00:59,550 --> 00:01:03,340
And we heard the good news,
the retreat on all fronts,

19
00:01:03,340 --> 00:01:03,900
and all that.

20
00:01:03,900 --> 00:01:08,100
So more or less,
you had that feeling

21
00:01:08,100 --> 00:01:10,990
that something was
going to happen.

22
00:01:10,990 --> 00:01:15,150
And the place I was
working at that time--

23
00:01:15,150 --> 00:01:17,760
that must have been V-Day.

24

00:01:17,760 --> 00:01:21,580

25

00:01:21,580 --> 00:01:27,720

And I think there was a General
Jodl who read the declaration

26

00:01:27,720 --> 00:01:30,840

that Germany has lost the war.

27

00:01:30,840 --> 00:01:34,470

And I have to say that
my boss called my--

28

00:01:34,470 --> 00:01:37,230

I was working with another
German Jewish girl.

29

00:01:37,230 --> 00:01:40,620

So the two of us were
called into his office.

30

00:01:40,620 --> 00:01:44,400

And he let us listen to the
radio to the declaration

31

00:01:44,400 --> 00:01:45,468

that Germany gave.

32

00:01:45,468 --> 00:01:46,260

Now we'll declare--

33

00:01:46,260 --> 00:01:46,650

They surrendered.

34

00:01:46,650 --> 00:01:48,000

--that they had lost the war.

35

00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:51,270

And that was-- I think Hitler
had already killed himself,

36

00:01:51,270 --> 00:01:53,730
and all that.

37
00:01:53,730 --> 00:02:00,150
But as I say, it was a
very bittersweet victory.

38
00:02:00,150 --> 00:02:04,120
I was still hoping that my
parents would have survived.

39
00:02:04,120 --> 00:02:06,810
But then, when the
reports came after,

40
00:02:06,810 --> 00:02:10,050
what the concentration
camps looked like,

41
00:02:10,050 --> 00:02:14,700
I knew there was no way
they could have survived.

42
00:02:14,700 --> 00:02:17,370
People already, at that
point, came to Sweden.

43
00:02:17,370 --> 00:02:21,213
First came the Danish Jews,
because the Danish Jews--

44
00:02:21,213 --> 00:02:22,380
I think you know that story.

45
00:02:22,380 --> 00:02:25,170
They were under the protection
of the Danish king, King

46
00:02:25,170 --> 00:02:25,680
Christian--

47
00:02:25,680 --> 00:02:26,250
Yes.

48
00:02:26,250 --> 00:02:29,370
--who had said, well, if
you put-- at that time,

49
00:02:29,370 --> 00:02:33,190
if you put yellow stars on
my Jews, I will bear it, too.

50
00:02:33,190 --> 00:02:36,280
And then they were-- even
in the concentration camps,

51
00:02:36,280 --> 00:02:38,250
what I was told--

52
00:02:38,250 --> 00:02:41,230
first of all, they were
all sent to Theresienstadt,

53
00:02:41,230 --> 00:02:45,180
which was the camp--
which was, God forbid,

54
00:02:45,180 --> 00:02:48,330
the best of the concentration
camps, so to say.

55
00:02:48,330 --> 00:02:49,440
Relatively speaking.

56
00:02:49,440 --> 00:02:50,400
Relatively speaking.

57
00:02:50,400 --> 00:02:50,940
Right.

58
00:02:50,940 --> 00:02:53,880
And then they were always told--

59
00:02:53,880 --> 00:02:56,520
well, everybody else,

but not to Danish Jews.

60
00:02:56,520 --> 00:02:58,670
They were under the
protection of the Danish king,

61
00:02:58,670 --> 00:02:59,460
more or less.

62
00:02:59,460 --> 00:03:04,170
And I think not
one Danish Jew was

63
00:03:04,170 --> 00:03:05,700
killed in concentration camps.

64
00:03:05,700 --> 00:03:07,270
They all did survive.

65
00:03:07,270 --> 00:03:11,700
And they were the first
ones to come to Sweden.

66
00:03:11,700 --> 00:03:15,030
And I think you know the
story about the Danish Jews

67
00:03:15,030 --> 00:03:17,880
being saved, coming at night.

68
00:03:17,880 --> 00:03:20,490
Don't you know the story,
that the Danish people

69
00:03:20,490 --> 00:03:22,390
used to bring them by boat?

70
00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:22,890
No.

71
00:03:22,890 --> 00:03:23,730
You don't know that?

72
00:03:23,730 --> 00:03:24,070
No.

73
00:03:24,070 --> 00:03:24,110
Yes.

74
00:03:24,110 --> 00:03:24,985
They used to do that.

75
00:03:24,985 --> 00:03:26,940
To save the Jews, they
used to take them in--

76
00:03:26,940 --> 00:03:29,633
by night, they used to
take families by boat--

77
00:03:29,633 --> 00:03:30,300
And bring them--

78
00:03:30,300 --> 00:03:30,680
--and bring them into Sweden.

79
00:03:30,680 --> 00:03:31,500
--into Sweden.

80
00:03:31,500 --> 00:03:32,070
Yes.

81
00:03:32,070 --> 00:03:32,850
Yes.

82
00:03:32,850 --> 00:03:36,330
Sweden was declared a--
how do you call it, heaven?

83
00:03:36,330 --> 00:03:36,870
Haven.

84
00:03:36,870 --> 00:03:37,230

Haven.

85

00:03:37,230 --> 00:03:37,730

Yes.

86

00:03:37,730 --> 00:03:39,750

Haven for the Danish Jews.

87

00:03:39,750 --> 00:03:42,630

Was Sweden at the time
governed by King Gustaf.

88

00:03:42,630 --> 00:03:43,560

Yes, it was.

89

00:03:43,560 --> 00:03:44,790

Yeah.

90

00:03:44,790 --> 00:03:48,600

And what was the second wave
of Jews who were brought over

91

00:03:48,600 --> 00:03:49,750

from concentration camps?

92

00:03:49,750 --> 00:03:50,340

Then came the Jews.

93

00:03:50,340 --> 00:03:51,215

Where were they from?

94

00:03:51,215 --> 00:03:53,910

Yeah, then came the Jews
of all nationalities--

95

00:03:53,910 --> 00:03:58,080

Romanian, a lot of Romanian
Jews and Polish Jews,

96

00:03:58,080 --> 00:04:01,770

some German Jews, Hungarian,
a lot of Hungarians Jews.

97
00:04:01,770 --> 00:04:03,390
See, the Hungarian
Jews, there were

98
00:04:03,390 --> 00:04:05,730
quite a-- they survived, too.

99
00:04:05,730 --> 00:04:07,620
I mean, a lot of
them got killed.

100
00:04:07,620 --> 00:04:08,760
However, many survived.

101
00:04:08,760 --> 00:04:11,698
But because-- you know about
the story of Raoul Wallenberg,

102
00:04:11,698 --> 00:04:12,240
and all that.

103
00:04:12,240 --> 00:04:12,740
Yes.

104
00:04:12,740 --> 00:04:16,019
But they were only
deported as late as 1944.

105
00:04:16,019 --> 00:04:20,440
So they hadn't been in the
camp that terribly long.

106
00:04:20,440 --> 00:04:23,970
And all those people
came into Sweden,

107
00:04:23,970 --> 00:04:26,640
as I had mentioned before.

108
00:04:26,640 --> 00:04:28,110
But not only that.

109
00:04:28,110 --> 00:04:30,150
I mean, the stories you
heard, and the things

110
00:04:30,150 --> 00:04:33,810
that were going on in Europe
were just so bad, everything.

111
00:04:33,810 --> 00:04:36,900
The railways were
all bombed out.

112
00:04:36,900 --> 00:04:42,480
And people were walking
around the highways trying--

113
00:04:42,480 --> 00:04:45,540
I mean, the highways,
the streets,

114
00:04:45,540 --> 00:04:49,080
trying to go back home
to see who had survived.

115
00:04:49,080 --> 00:04:53,100
They wanted to find out if there
was anybody of their family

116
00:04:53,100 --> 00:04:56,250
or their town who had survived.

117
00:04:56,250 --> 00:05:00,390
So there were people
wandering all over Europe.

118
00:05:00,390 --> 00:05:05,700
How well known was the work
of Raoul Wallenberg in Sweden?

119
00:05:05,700 --> 00:05:09,030
It was known, because I
know I had read about it.

120
00:05:09,030 --> 00:05:10,390
And I was very impressed.

121
00:05:10,390 --> 00:05:13,190
And I could not understand
that nothing ever

122
00:05:13,190 --> 00:05:14,855
was said about it over here.

123
00:05:14,855 --> 00:05:17,360

124
00:05:17,360 --> 00:05:22,910
What was your thoughts about
the American Jews at that time?

125
00:05:22,910 --> 00:05:26,750
Were you too young to think
what was going on here

126
00:05:26,750 --> 00:05:29,480
in this country?

127
00:05:29,480 --> 00:05:32,840
To tell you the truth, I
really didn't know much

128
00:05:32,840 --> 00:05:34,640
about American Jews.

129
00:05:34,640 --> 00:05:36,410
The only thing
which surprised me

130
00:05:36,410 --> 00:05:40,910
is that there wasn't any more
help to the European Jews.

131
00:05:40,910 --> 00:05:45,020
That was one thing I couldn't

understand-- that people would

132

00:05:45,020 --> 00:05:49,430

sit by, and watch other
Jews suffer so terribly,

133

00:05:49,430 --> 00:05:52,040

and not move a
finger to help them.

134

00:05:52,040 --> 00:05:54,890

That was the only thing
I was thinking about.

135

00:05:54,890 --> 00:05:58,190

However, I have to admit my
knowledge of American Jews

136

00:05:58,190 --> 00:05:59,940

was very limited.

137

00:05:59,940 --> 00:06:01,460

I didn't really know any.

138

00:06:01,460 --> 00:06:03,050

No, I meant from
the point of view

139

00:06:03,050 --> 00:06:07,250

of what you just
mentioned, the lack of help

140

00:06:07,250 --> 00:06:11,930

and whether, as a
refugee living in Sweden,

141

00:06:11,930 --> 00:06:15,980

were you conscious of the
fact that more was not

142

00:06:15,980 --> 00:06:18,000

being done by American Jews--

143

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:18,500

I think.

144

00:06:18,500 --> 00:06:19,550

--or by Roosevelt?

145

00:06:19,550 --> 00:06:20,130

Yeah.

146

00:06:20,130 --> 00:06:23,075

I wouldn't even say American
Jews-- by the United States.

147

00:06:23,075 --> 00:06:26,480

You know about the St. Louis
who were sent back again.

148

00:06:26,480 --> 00:06:29,300

I mean things like that, where
they really-- and as I say,

149

00:06:29,300 --> 00:06:31,100

the quotas were so high.

150

00:06:31,100 --> 00:06:34,580

All those things
really added up saying

151

00:06:34,580 --> 00:06:37,610

that, actually, the United
States did so very little.

152

00:06:37,610 --> 00:06:40,760

Now, when you think how
they're open to anybody

153

00:06:40,760 --> 00:06:42,260

who wants to come here--

154

00:06:42,260 --> 00:06:45,500

even war criminals are
allowed to come over here.

155
00:06:45,500 --> 00:06:48,380
And here were people
who really wanted--

156
00:06:48,380 --> 00:06:50,900
they didn't want to be
a burden to anybody.

157
00:06:50,900 --> 00:06:52,430
They would have done--

158
00:06:52,430 --> 00:06:55,580
I'm sure that my parents would
have worked, I don't know,

159
00:06:55,580 --> 00:06:59,570
on a farm, or cleaning houses,
or whatever as long as they

160
00:06:59,570 --> 00:07:02,000
would have been permitted
to come over here.

161
00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:04,010
And I'm not only
speaking for my parents.

162
00:07:04,010 --> 00:07:07,670
I'm speaking for a lot
of people, too, who

163
00:07:07,670 --> 00:07:09,100
would have loved to come over.

164
00:07:09,100 --> 00:07:09,800
We had a young--

165
00:07:09,800 --> 00:07:15,170
I mean, my god, I had a couple
living in the same building

166

00:07:15,170 --> 00:07:15,890
we lived in.

167
00:07:15,890 --> 00:07:17,450
And they had a boy and a girl.

168
00:07:17,450 --> 00:07:20,540
And they were about the
same age as my sister and I.

169
00:07:20,540 --> 00:07:23,360
Those two young
people did perish.

170
00:07:23,360 --> 00:07:28,620
They were about 16, 18 years
old, something like that.

171
00:07:28,620 --> 00:07:32,270
And I had a girlfriend
who was a very--

172
00:07:32,270 --> 00:07:35,360
she was very good in
sewing and doing things.

173
00:07:35,360 --> 00:07:38,030
She would have loved to go
out and earn her living.

174
00:07:38,030 --> 00:07:40,400
She was a very vivacious girl.

175
00:07:40,400 --> 00:07:41,300
She loved to live.

176
00:07:41,300 --> 00:07:44,520
And I think about that this
girl was not permitted.

177
00:07:44,520 --> 00:07:49,550
And you can multiply that
by a million young people

178
00:07:49,550 --> 00:07:52,670
who were not permitted to live.

179
00:07:52,670 --> 00:07:57,150
Then I think it is really so
sad, when you think about it.

180
00:07:57,150 --> 00:08:01,610
And as I say, my parents
always-- in letters

181
00:08:01,610 --> 00:08:04,440
always said, we're
hopeful, and saying,

182
00:08:04,440 --> 00:08:08,060
well, maybe those will help
us, and those will help us.

183
00:08:08,060 --> 00:08:10,370
Somehow, they
didn't give up hope.

184
00:08:10,370 --> 00:08:12,110
When you finally think that--

185
00:08:12,110 --> 00:08:16,070
You see, that's the way it was,
even when we lived in Germany.

186
00:08:16,070 --> 00:08:19,500
It was like there was a
rope around your neck.

187
00:08:19,500 --> 00:08:21,530
And it was pulled
tighter and tighter.

188
00:08:21,530 --> 00:08:23,030
That was really the
feeling I always

189

00:08:23,030 --> 00:08:27,300

had when I was a child
over there, with a rope.

190

00:08:27,300 --> 00:08:29,630

To finally-- it was
so tight already.

191

00:08:29,630 --> 00:08:32,120

That's when I wanted to get
out, because I felt, well,

192

00:08:32,120 --> 00:08:33,510

what else can we do?

193

00:08:33,510 --> 00:08:36,500

After all, what they
did in Crystal Night,

194

00:08:36,500 --> 00:08:38,690

what else can they do to us?

195

00:08:38,690 --> 00:08:40,940

That's why I really think
the Crystal Night was really

196

00:08:40,940 --> 00:08:44,990

the beginning of the end
of the European Jewery.

197

00:08:44,990 --> 00:08:47,750

And once the Nazis could
see how they could get away

198

00:08:47,750 --> 00:08:52,460

with things, and nobody did
really move a finger to help,

199

00:08:52,460 --> 00:08:54,860

then the whole world
was theirs, so to say.

200

00:08:54,860 --> 00:08:56,990

They could do
whatever they pleased.

201

00:08:56,990 --> 00:08:59,660

What led to your decision to
come to the United States?

202

00:08:59,660 --> 00:09:01,220

When-- why was my--

203

00:09:01,220 --> 00:09:02,240

Yeah, how did you--

204

00:09:02,240 --> 00:09:04,160

Well, before we left--

205

00:09:04,160 --> 00:09:08,670

see, my parents did have an
affidavit to come over here.

206

00:09:08,670 --> 00:09:11,270

However, the quota-- as I
mentioned before, the quotas

207

00:09:11,270 --> 00:09:12,160

were so high.

208

00:09:12,160 --> 00:09:13,910

They had to go to
Berlin to the consulate.

209

00:09:13,910 --> 00:09:16,790

And the quotas were very high.

210

00:09:16,790 --> 00:09:19,100

But somehow, our
agreement had been,

211

00:09:19,100 --> 00:09:22,350

once the war was over--
and first of all, actually,

212

00:09:22,350 --> 00:09:23,180
you didn't know.

213

00:09:23,180 --> 00:09:24,950
Except maybe we go
back to Germany,

214

00:09:24,950 --> 00:09:27,530
or somehow live with my parents.

215

00:09:27,530 --> 00:09:29,360
Even during the Hitler time--

216

00:09:29,360 --> 00:09:31,190
there was no war
yet when we left.

217

00:09:31,190 --> 00:09:33,620
So we were hoping that
maybe somehow they

218

00:09:33,620 --> 00:09:36,530
would let my parents go out, and
then we could come over here.

219

00:09:36,530 --> 00:09:39,570
It was like daydreaming,
or something like that.

220

00:09:39,570 --> 00:09:41,600
But after the war
was over, and I

221

00:09:41,600 --> 00:09:44,360
knew my parents were
not alive anymore,

222

00:09:44,360 --> 00:09:46,400
and Europe was in
such a terrible mess,

223

00:09:46,400 --> 00:09:49,400

I didn't feel like
staying in Sweden.

224
00:09:49,400 --> 00:09:52,020
And I didn't want to
go back to Germany.

225
00:09:52,020 --> 00:09:54,470
And I had relatives over here.

226
00:09:54,470 --> 00:10:00,410
So I felt, well, the best thing
to do is to come over here.

227
00:10:00,410 --> 00:10:03,200
Or I was considering Israel.

228
00:10:03,200 --> 00:10:07,610
However, I didn't have really
very close relatives in Israel.

229
00:10:07,610 --> 00:10:11,590
And I had made applications
to both to the United States

230
00:10:11,590 --> 00:10:12,240
and to Israel.

231
00:10:12,240 --> 00:10:14,850
And I said, whatever
comes first, I'll take.

232
00:10:14,850 --> 00:10:16,750
And the United States
really did come first.

233
00:10:16,750 --> 00:10:19,600
And finally, we got our visas.

234
00:10:19,600 --> 00:10:23,390
And that's what made me leave.

235

00:10:23,390 --> 00:10:25,840
So when did you leave
for the United States?

236
00:10:25,840 --> 00:10:29,440
We left January 1947.

237
00:10:29,440 --> 00:10:33,820
And we left on a Swedish boat
out of Goteborg, or Gothenburg,

238
00:10:33,820 --> 00:10:35,320
like they say here.

239
00:10:35,320 --> 00:10:37,090
And it was really--

240
00:10:37,090 --> 00:10:39,370
they had brought people.

241
00:10:39,370 --> 00:10:43,450
So many of the survivors
were with us on that boat.

242
00:10:43,450 --> 00:10:45,490
I mean people,
especially from France.

243
00:10:45,490 --> 00:10:50,350
They came with busloads, with
people who were survivors.

244
00:10:50,350 --> 00:10:56,020
And people came there really
with those little packs, not

245
00:10:56,020 --> 00:10:56,890
even suitcases.

246
00:10:56,890 --> 00:10:59,720
They had a pillow, pillowcase.

247

00:10:59,720 --> 00:11:00,400
Bundles.

248
00:11:00,400 --> 00:11:03,230
And they had bundles,
and all that.

249
00:11:03,230 --> 00:11:04,083
It was a very--

250
00:11:04,083 --> 00:11:04,750
it was very sad.

251
00:11:04,750 --> 00:11:05,250
Sad.

252
00:11:05,250 --> 00:11:07,690
I have to say that,
really and truly.

253
00:11:07,690 --> 00:11:11,020
A lot of Hungarian
Jews were on our ship.

254
00:11:11,020 --> 00:11:13,070
And I made friends
with many of them.

255
00:11:13,070 --> 00:11:13,570
Yes.

256
00:11:13,570 --> 00:11:14,950
Was your sister Vera with you?

257
00:11:14,950 --> 00:11:15,880
Yeah, the two of us.

258
00:11:15,880 --> 00:11:16,780
We left together.

259
00:11:16,780 --> 00:11:17,410
Yes.

260
00:11:17,410 --> 00:11:19,120
How long did the trip take?

261
00:11:19,120 --> 00:11:21,160
Oh, it was a bad trip.

262
00:11:21,160 --> 00:11:22,210
It was in January.

263
00:11:22,210 --> 00:11:25,350
And it was very stormy.

264
00:11:25,350 --> 00:11:27,280
We didn't get sick,
but most people did.

265
00:11:27,280 --> 00:11:29,260
The trip took about 11 days.

266
00:11:29,260 --> 00:11:32,350
Yeah, it was really bad.

267
00:11:32,350 --> 00:11:34,510
And your uncle met
you when you arrived?

268
00:11:34,510 --> 00:11:37,420
Yes, my uncle and his
wife came to meet us

269
00:11:37,420 --> 00:11:38,990
when we arrived here.

270
00:11:38,990 --> 00:11:39,490
Yes.

271
00:11:39,490 --> 00:11:41,080
And did you live with them?

272
00:11:41,080 --> 00:11:42,400

No.

273

00:11:42,400 --> 00:11:46,000

My uncle had rented a room
for my sister and myself.

274

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:48,910

We all-- everybody then
lived in Washington Heights.

275

00:11:48,910 --> 00:11:49,660

Right.

276

00:11:49,660 --> 00:11:53,980

So my uncle had rented a room
for my sister and for myself

277

00:11:53,980 --> 00:11:57,040

in Washington Heights with a
very nice German Jewish family,

278

00:11:57,040 --> 00:11:57,880

an elderly couple.

279

00:11:57,880 --> 00:12:00,350

But they also were
so nice to us.

280

00:12:00,350 --> 00:12:00,850

Yes.

281

00:12:00,850 --> 00:12:04,960

And then both my sister and
I just started to go to work.

282

00:12:04,960 --> 00:12:08,770

And then my sister, soon
afterwards, got engaged.

283

00:12:08,770 --> 00:12:10,180

We came here February.

284

00:12:10,180 --> 00:12:11,320
And she was engaged by May.

285
00:12:11,320 --> 00:12:12,570
And she was married by August.

286
00:12:12,570 --> 00:12:14,320
Oh.

287
00:12:14,320 --> 00:12:17,890
And how did you
meet your husband?

288
00:12:17,890 --> 00:12:21,550
Since my sister was already
engaged to be married,

289
00:12:21,550 --> 00:12:23,620
she was mostly
with her boyfriend

290
00:12:23,620 --> 00:12:26,680
and had left me by myself.

291
00:12:26,680 --> 00:12:30,070
And I, through a
young man we knew

292
00:12:30,070 --> 00:12:35,530
Sweden at that time who had
come over here before us,

293
00:12:35,530 --> 00:12:39,190
we joined a German Jewish club.

294
00:12:39,190 --> 00:12:44,770
And that club used to go make
field trips, go out and--

295
00:12:44,770 --> 00:12:46,720
well, I joined them once.

296

00:12:46,720 --> 00:12:49,210
And then I got--

297
00:12:49,210 --> 00:12:50,620
I have relatives.

298
00:12:50,620 --> 00:12:52,040
I had other relatives here.

299
00:12:52,040 --> 00:12:55,960
I got very involved with
relatives and friends.

300
00:12:55,960 --> 00:12:57,880
And they always
kept on sending me

301
00:12:57,880 --> 00:12:59,900
literature about joining them.

302
00:12:59,900 --> 00:13:01,972
So one day-- as I
say, I love swimming.

303
00:13:01,972 --> 00:13:02,680
I love the beach.

304
00:13:02,680 --> 00:13:05,620
So one day, there was a
field trip to the beach.

305
00:13:05,620 --> 00:13:09,100
So I said to myself, oh,
I'm going to go to that.

306
00:13:09,100 --> 00:13:10,480
And I joined it.

307
00:13:10,480 --> 00:13:13,480
And my husband, who
had a cousin who

308

00:13:13,480 --> 00:13:16,090
belonged to that
congregation, to the club,

309
00:13:16,090 --> 00:13:17,860
had joined his cousin.

310
00:13:17,860 --> 00:13:20,700
And it's more or
less how we met.

311
00:13:20,700 --> 00:13:24,400
Both being strangers in the
group, and going there--

312
00:13:24,400 --> 00:13:26,620
I mean, on a field trip.

313
00:13:26,620 --> 00:13:29,570
He's also a survivor, I
take it, your husband.

314
00:13:29,570 --> 00:13:30,130
My husband?

315
00:13:30,130 --> 00:13:30,790
Yes.

316
00:13:30,790 --> 00:13:33,160
I don't know if I can
call him survivor.

317
00:13:33,160 --> 00:13:35,800
In a way, I guess anybody
who survived the Hitler

318
00:13:35,800 --> 00:13:39,400
regime in Europe, you
can call it survivor.

319
00:13:39,400 --> 00:13:43,150
However, my husband already
came over here in 1937.

320
00:13:43,150 --> 00:13:43,900
Oh.

321
00:13:43,900 --> 00:13:44,920
Yes.

322
00:13:44,920 --> 00:13:46,180
He came without his parents.

323
00:13:46,180 --> 00:13:47,050
His parents came.

324
00:13:47,050 --> 00:13:48,280
His sister was here already.

325
00:13:48,280 --> 00:13:50,740
She had come already
in 1935, I think.

326
00:13:50,740 --> 00:13:54,310
And my husband's parents
came then in 1938.

327
00:13:54,310 --> 00:13:57,910
So when I met my husband, he
was already an American citizen.

328
00:13:57,910 --> 00:13:59,800
And he spoke in
beautiful English.

329
00:13:59,800 --> 00:14:01,150
I was very impressed.

330
00:14:01,150 --> 00:14:02,110
Yes.

331
00:14:02,110 --> 00:14:04,600
And you've learned
English very, very well.

332

00:14:04,600 --> 00:14:06,145

Oh, thank you.

333

00:14:06,145 --> 00:14:07,540

Well, I made it my business.

334

00:14:07,540 --> 00:14:10,120

I think you have to speak the
language of the country you

335

00:14:10,120 --> 00:14:12,565

want to live in.

336

00:14:12,565 --> 00:14:13,300

I knew it.

337

00:14:13,300 --> 00:14:15,160

I had learned it
already in Europe.

338

00:14:15,160 --> 00:14:18,070

I mean, it was not that I came
here, and I didn't know a word.

339

00:14:18,070 --> 00:14:20,440

I had learned it
already over there.

340

00:14:20,440 --> 00:14:23,170

However, once I
started to live here,

341

00:14:23,170 --> 00:14:28,210

I really felt it was my
duty and my obligation

342

00:14:28,210 --> 00:14:31,120

to try to do the best with it.

343

00:14:31,120 --> 00:14:34,090

Mrs. Prager, do you think
we've learned anything

344
00:14:34,090 --> 00:14:35,290
from the Holocaust?

345
00:14:35,290 --> 00:14:37,120
Do you think the world
has learned anything

346
00:14:37,120 --> 00:14:39,340
from the Holocaust?

347
00:14:39,340 --> 00:14:42,530
I'm sorry to say,
I don't think so.

348
00:14:42,530 --> 00:14:45,100
I don't think the
world learned anything.

349
00:14:45,100 --> 00:14:47,080
You see what's still going on.

350
00:14:47,080 --> 00:14:49,480
You know what they learned
from the Holocaust?

351
00:14:49,480 --> 00:14:53,200
They learned from the Holocaust
what you can do to human beings

352
00:14:53,200 --> 00:14:55,870
and get away without
being punished.

353
00:14:55,870 --> 00:14:56,890
That is my feeling.

354
00:14:56,890 --> 00:14:59,140
I think there's things that
are still going on today.

355
00:14:59,140 --> 00:15:01,630

Things don't look any
better, and the opposite.

356
00:15:01,630 --> 00:15:04,540
Here, in Germany, I
would think it was

357
00:15:04,540 --> 00:15:08,172
government organized brutality.

358
00:15:08,172 --> 00:15:10,380
In other countries, you
don't even have to go so far.

359
00:15:10,380 --> 00:15:12,140
People are brutal in
their own, the way

360
00:15:12,140 --> 00:15:15,180
they treat their
fellow human beings.

361
00:15:15,180 --> 00:15:17,270
So I really feel,
unfortunately, not

362
00:15:17,270 --> 00:15:19,880
much has really been learned.

363
00:15:19,880 --> 00:15:22,430
I mean, that is my
personal feeling.

364
00:15:22,430 --> 00:15:24,560
Not much has been learned by it.

365
00:15:24,560 --> 00:15:28,400
And if it would be--

366
00:15:28,400 --> 00:15:30,890
god forbid-- the
same situation, I

367

00:15:30,890 --> 00:15:33,560

don't think things would
turn out much better.

368

00:15:33,560 --> 00:15:35,310

I really think so.

369

00:15:35,310 --> 00:15:42,620

I think people still are the
same selfish, greedy people

370

00:15:42,620 --> 00:15:44,480

they always have been.

371

00:15:44,480 --> 00:15:47,060

And nothing will change that.

372

00:15:47,060 --> 00:15:49,340

After the Holocaust,
people felt sorry.

373

00:15:49,340 --> 00:15:51,990

And well, we should
have done more.

374

00:15:51,990 --> 00:15:55,940

Yeah, but as I say that,
I think, more or less--

375

00:15:55,940 --> 00:15:58,400

as a matter of fact,
that is the reason why I

376

00:15:58,400 --> 00:16:01,490

feel I have to speak about it.

377

00:16:01,490 --> 00:16:02,960

And people have to be reminded.

378

00:16:02,960 --> 00:16:06,500

Otherwise, it is too
easily forgotten,

379

00:16:06,500 --> 00:16:09,710
the terrible bloodshed
that really happened.

380

00:16:09,710 --> 00:16:11,150
The world has forgotten.

381

00:16:11,150 --> 00:16:13,790
Nobody thinks about it anymore.

382

00:16:13,790 --> 00:16:15,710
Maybe there are exceptions.

383

00:16:15,710 --> 00:16:17,300
Maybe some people in--

384

00:16:17,300 --> 00:16:21,440
I don't know-- in
Holland, in France.

385

00:16:21,440 --> 00:16:23,750
As a matter of fact,
I think just now

386

00:16:23,750 --> 00:16:27,710
there is a French film,
which is called [FRENCH]..

387

00:16:27,710 --> 00:16:29,990
There are certain people
who think about it.

388

00:16:29,990 --> 00:16:33,080
But altogether, people
have forgotten it already.

389

00:16:33,080 --> 00:16:36,470
The only ones, I have to
say-- next to the Jews--

390

00:16:36,470 --> 00:16:40,010

who more or less are
bothered by it, I can say,

391
00:16:40,010 --> 00:16:42,920
are the people of Germany.

392
00:16:42,920 --> 00:16:44,810
They really-- yeah.

393
00:16:44,810 --> 00:16:47,780
You see, that's the guilt,
which nobody can take it away

394
00:16:47,780 --> 00:16:48,720
from them.

395
00:16:48,720 --> 00:16:50,780
It is a guilt. They did it.

396
00:16:50,780 --> 00:16:55,490
And when we went to
Germany, my husband and I,

397
00:16:55,490 --> 00:16:58,280
we used to go to restaurants.

398
00:16:58,280 --> 00:17:01,310
And I used to listen
to people talk.

399
00:17:01,310 --> 00:17:06,950
They all still spoke
about World War II.

400
00:17:06,950 --> 00:17:08,630
Everybody spoke about it.

401
00:17:08,630 --> 00:17:10,319
And even when we
met all the others,

402
00:17:10,319 --> 00:17:13,819

they all wanted to declare
how they didn't know anything

403
00:17:13,819 --> 00:17:16,700
about it, how
innocent they were.

404
00:17:16,700 --> 00:17:18,680
But you know what?

405
00:17:18,680 --> 00:17:19,790
I don't know.

406
00:17:19,790 --> 00:17:21,720
That you don't know
anything about it?

407
00:17:21,720 --> 00:17:25,339
I mean, you knew.

408
00:17:25,339 --> 00:17:29,060
Right now, I'm taking a
class about history again.

409
00:17:29,060 --> 00:17:31,400
It's histories for film.

410
00:17:31,400 --> 00:17:35,360
And we were shown the
movie Triumph of the Will,

411
00:17:35,360 --> 00:17:40,910
and Hitler always talking
about, emphasizing

412
00:17:40,910 --> 00:17:42,840
what he will do to the Jews.

413
00:17:42,840 --> 00:17:46,070
So don't tell me nobody
suspected anything,

414

00:17:46,070 --> 00:17:46,850
knew anything.

415
00:17:46,850 --> 00:17:48,340
I think you have to know.

416
00:17:48,340 --> 00:17:53,600
You knew how brutal
those people were.

417
00:17:53,600 --> 00:17:54,920
I would think--

418
00:17:54,920 --> 00:17:59,330
I couldn't say that people
learned anything really

419
00:17:59,330 --> 00:18:01,730
from it.

420
00:18:01,730 --> 00:18:04,850
But the only thing
is I do not want,

421
00:18:04,850 --> 00:18:07,190
as my husband had mentioned--

422
00:18:07,190 --> 00:18:10,070
I don't want to
condemn everybody,

423
00:18:10,070 --> 00:18:13,130
because I sometimes say
to myself, what would I

424
00:18:13,130 --> 00:18:17,390
have done if the shoe would
have fitted on the other foot?

425
00:18:17,390 --> 00:18:20,900
If I would have been in
the shoes of the Germans,

426

00:18:20,900 --> 00:18:23,825
and I would have been
threatened-- well, if you hide

427

00:18:23,825 --> 00:18:26,175
the Jews, we kill your family.

428

00:18:26,175 --> 00:18:27,050
I don't know what I--

429

00:18:27,050 --> 00:18:31,250
I mean, I cannot say
what I would have done.

430

00:18:31,250 --> 00:18:33,740
And being older now--

431

00:18:33,740 --> 00:18:35,870
when you are young, you're
much more enthusiastic.

432

00:18:35,870 --> 00:18:38,420
You are much more
of an idealist.

433

00:18:38,420 --> 00:18:39,170
And you do things.

434

00:18:39,170 --> 00:18:41,180
But I don't know
now, let's say, I

435

00:18:41,180 --> 00:18:44,990
would have been in a position
at my age now, in a position

436

00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:46,083
of a German woman.

437

00:18:46,083 --> 00:18:47,750
And I don't know what
I would have done.

438
00:18:47,750 --> 00:18:49,400
I really cannot say.

439
00:18:49,400 --> 00:18:51,827
But to answer your
question, no, I

440
00:18:51,827 --> 00:18:53,660
don't think really the
world learned enough.

441
00:18:53,660 --> 00:18:55,250
As a matter of
fact, I even think

442
00:18:55,250 --> 00:18:57,770
that a professor wrote a
book that the Holocaust never

443
00:18:57,770 --> 00:19:03,440
happened, that Anne Frank is a
hoax, all that kind of things.

444
00:19:03,440 --> 00:19:06,650
So what can you say?

445
00:19:06,650 --> 00:19:09,830
I don't think,
unfortunately, it's--

446
00:19:09,830 --> 00:19:14,510
Well, this is why we ask people
like you to come and tell us,

447
00:19:14,510 --> 00:19:16,550
so that we don't forget.

448
00:19:16,550 --> 00:19:20,330
I really appreciated
that you gave me a chance

449

00:19:20,330 --> 00:19:22,580
to let me speak to
you, because I really

450
00:19:22,580 --> 00:19:28,010
feel that it's something people
have to be reminded about

451
00:19:28,010 --> 00:19:30,560
very often that they
shouldn't forget,

452
00:19:30,560 --> 00:19:34,580
and especially for coming
generations, that they should

453
00:19:34,580 --> 00:19:40,430
know what has happened in the
middle of the 20th century, how

454
00:19:40,430 --> 00:19:46,910
really 6 million people
were killed, exterminated.

455
00:19:46,910 --> 00:19:51,470
And it was really a
scheduled extermination.

456
00:19:51,470 --> 00:19:55,130
And nobody raised a
finger really to stem it,

457
00:19:55,130 --> 00:19:56,180
to do anything about it.

458
00:19:56,180 --> 00:19:59,030
Well, we want to thank you
for sharing this with us.

459
00:19:59,030 --> 00:20:01,460
I know it must
have been painful.

460

00:20:01,460 --> 00:20:03,800

But we do appreciate
it very, very much.

461

00:20:03,800 --> 00:20:06,920

Well, I really thank you
both for taking the time out

462

00:20:06,920 --> 00:20:08,510

and asking me to come here.

463

00:20:08,510 --> 00:20:09,440

Thank you so much.

464

00:20:09,440 --> 00:20:09,940

Sure.

465

00:20:09,940 --> 00:20:10,440

466

00:20:10,440 --> 00:20:13,690

[MUSIC PLAYING]

467

00:20:13,690 --> 00:20:40,039